

Philadelphia 21st May 1773

My Dear Sir

My last I think was of 11th inst^{ce} since which I have not been favored with any of Yours, I have been some time in expectation of a Colleague to supply the place of Mr. Frost, who I suppose must have been at home some weeks. My Task is really arduous, but my anxiety to see a determination of some important matters now under consideration prevents my pressing a speedy relief.

The State of the currency is truly deplorable, but not so alarming in my judgment as the failure of public Virtue, the former may possibly be assisted by human means, but we must depend on him who alone can control the hearts of men to establish the latter. — We are now about trying once more what can be done to save the sinking credit of the money, the prevailing Opinion is that nothing will do but (I was going to say) exceptional Taxes, but I will soften the epithet, * & adopt the word, very high ~~proportioned~~ if a sufficiency can be raised by Taxes to support the war, farther emissions will be unnecessary, this is part of the plan now under consideration, ~~and~~ ^{consequent} a resolution past this day to raise 45,000,000 to be paid in by the 1st of Jan^y. I must suspend giving you my Opinion of this measure for the present. Let it suffice to say there was a great Majority in favor of the question, & but a small Majority against the

Question for 60,000,000 this is a bold Political stroke, and I hope will be carried into effect, as to all appearance nothing else can save us from destruction, the People in this part of the Country are every where clamorous for heavy Taxes, the greatest difficulty appears to me is, the levying it on the proper persons, if the whole sum could be drawn from those speculating merchants, who have been sucking the blood of their country, it would be a most happy circumstance and I hope the assembly will be particularly attentive to those people, ~~the~~ who increases in wealth in such times as the present, must be an enemy to his country, be his pretensions what they may. If the Connecticut mode of collecting Taxes, was adopted the business would be much facilitated; In that State five or six Taxes are collected in a year, by that means they collect very large sums without producing the least uneasiness among the people. If the people are duly impressed with the advantages they will derive from paying in their money while it is at the present low state they certainly will do it with cheerfulness. Spirited measures with the Property of the fugitives, as well as with the persons of the resident enemies, to the Revolution, would in my humble opinion have an exceeding good effect, at this particular crisis.

The Enemy seem determined to carry on a predatory war, agreeable to the threats held up in the British Commissioners Proclamation last Summer their conduct in Virginia is an evidence of this, for the particulars I must beg leave to refer you to the new papers - Time only can inform us of the

events of the present Campaign, but this we may
be assured of, that nothing is so likely to give us
success as vigorous & decisive measures both in
councils & in the field — a Mr. Hamilton Genl
of Detroit is taken prisoner (by Major Clark of
Virginia) with his Garrison at a post he held on the
Ohio, this viper's nest has been exceedingly troublesome
to our frontier, whether our troubles in that quarter
will be soon ended, depends on the success of the
expedition into that country under the command
of Genl Sullivan. — Whether we shall have any
naval assistance from our ally (depends ~~upon~~ in
my judgment) on the chapter of accidents but this
is not the opinion of many others; but Mum! —

I want every State in the Union to feel the impor-
tance of Sovereignty, & I wish the United States were
fully sensible of their importance among the powers
of the Earth; we should then under Heaven depend
on our own strength, & banish from among us every
idea of servility, which now like the dross among
the wheat, prevents the growth of that virtuous re-
publican pride so essential to the happiness of
America. —

You have several times
mentioned to me the Slavery that was detained by
order of Congress & as I know the importunity of
the people must be very troublesome I heartily
wish Congress could be prevailed on to decide on
that matter but from various causes nothing has
yet been done The several reports have been

made & re-committed, on the whole I think it
will be best for the executive authority of the
State to act their own judgment in that matter

Mr. Emerson of Durham who was a Commissioner
of acc^t? died here last week of the small pox
after three or four days illness, I shall get what in-
formation I can of his affairs here, for the satis-
faction of his Family, with whom I most heartily
sympathize. — — —

I am very sincerely
Your Friend & Friend
Wm. W. Whipple

Wm. W. Whipple

Honble. Col: Bartlett

Whipple May 21st
1879